

Supreme Court of India, 17,19,569 cases under section 131 of the Negotiable Instruments Act and 22,45,879 Traffic Challan Cases pending in the courts of Judicial Magistrates First Class/Metropolitan Magistrates and Chief Judicial Magistrates. Quick disposal of such cases is within the domain of the judiciary. With a view to expeditiously disposing petty cases in the courts, the conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on 11-3-2006 made the following resolution which has been forwarded to the State Governments for appropriate action:

"Cases involving petty offences including traffic and municipal chajlans be transferred to the courts of Special Metropolitan Magistrates/Special Judicial Magistrates."

Vacancies of judges

2013. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of vacancies of judges at present in the Supreme Court and different High Courts and since when these vacancies have been in existence;
- (b) the number of vacancies that are likely to arise by December end next year; and
- (c) the action Government have taken to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A Statement is enclosed (see below).

(b) During the period between 07-12-2006 and 31-12-2007, there will be 4 vacancies in the Supreme Court due to retirement of judges. During the same period 65 vacancies are likely to arise in various High Courts due to retirement/elevation of Judges to Supreme Court.

(c) Pursuant to the Judgment of the Supreme Court dated October 6, 1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates on Record and Anr. Vs. Union of India, and the Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court dated October 28, 1998, the proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts are to be initiated by the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, respectively. The Government

has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and anticipated vacancies during the next six months.

Statement

Details of vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

As on 06-12-2006

SI. No.	Name of the Court No.	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies	Date of Vacancy
1	2	3	4	5	6
	SUPREME COURT	26	22	4	03-06-2006 21-05-2006 12-04-2006 08-11-2005
	HIGH COURTS				
1	Allahabad	95	87	8	14-07-2006 10-04-2006 03-04-2006 01-03-2006 01-12-2005 11-11-2005 31-08-2005 28-08-2005
2	Andhra Pradesh	39	34	5	23-05-2005 03-05-2005 20-03-2005 02-03-2005 02-01-2005
3	Bombay	61	60	1	24-11-2006
4	Calcutta	50	45	5	24-11-2005 10-11-2005 04-10-2005 09-09-2005 21-08-2005
5	Chhattisgarh	8	7	1	03-09-2006
6	Delhi	36	33	3	28-11-2006 27-06-2006 04-04-2006
7	Guwahati	23	22	1	23-12-2005

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1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Gujarat	42	33	9	20-08-2006 19-07-2006 07-08-2005 04-03-2005 10-12-2004 22-08-2004 10-06-2004 07-06-2004 19-12-2002
9	Himachal Pradesh	8	6	2	12-04-2006 28-03-2006
10	Jammu & Kashmir	14	8	- 6	04-05-2006 17-01-2006 15-10-2005 20-08-2005 05-07-2004 24-03-2002
11	Jharkhand	12	10	2	13-08-2005 01-07-2005
12	Karnataka	40	34	6	06-10-2006 02-05-2006 09-09-2005 17-08-2005 20-03-2005 24-05-2004
13	Kerala	29	26	3	18-07-2006 24-05-2006 17-09-2004
14	Madhya Pradesh	41	39	2	04-08-2006 06-06-2006
15	Madras	45	44	1	13-11-2006
16	Orissa	20	16	4	24-11-2004 22-03-2004 22-03-2004 03-03-2004
17	Patna	31	30	1	04-08-2006
18	Punjab & Haryana	40	38	2	22-03-2006 23-02-2006

1	2	3	4	5	6
	-			17-06-2006	
				01-01-2006 (2 vacancies) 08- 03-2005	
19	Rajasthan	40	31	9	25-02-2005 20-02-2005 20-10-2004 07-06-2004 29-06-2003
20	Sikkim	3	3	0	
21	Uttaranchal	.9	9	0	
	TOTAL:	686	615	71	

Legal aid to poor

2014. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) The State-wise details of legal aid for poor people being provided in the country;
- (b) whether any legal aid scheme has been formulated by Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the achievements made by Government in this regard during the last three years; and
- (e) the necessary steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to create awareness among the people to avail free legal aid to the poor people in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The information is being collected from all the State Legal Services Authorities and will be laid on the Table of the House as and when the same is received.

(b) and (c) The Government through the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is providing free legal aid to poor all over the country and also taking steps to strengthen the Legal Aid System so that legal aid could be made available to the poor and the deprived in equal measures. Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, persons belonging to weaker sections such as, a member of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, a victim of